

Town of Los Gatos: Growing Greener

Winter Sustainability

- Turn down the thermostat a degree or two and put on a sweater - it will save you money and reduce carbon emissions!
- Don't let your car idle for more than 30 seconds. Idling pollutes the air with carbon monoxide, which is dangerous for everyone, especially children,
- If you want to use your fireplace, make sure it isn't a Spare the Air Day. These are days when the Bay Area Air Quality Management District determines that the air quality is unhealthy, and it is dangerous to burn. Check online at www.sparetheair.com to see if it's a Spare the Air Day or not!



Ants and the Rainy Season

When rain comes, ants often invade homes and make a mess. Instead of using harmful pesticides, here are some eco-friendly ways to get rid of that pesky problem:

- Ants leave scent trails for their nest-mates to follow. Clean those up with soapy water or vinegar to keep them from returning.
- After you clean up the trail, remove the food they got into.
- Temporarily block their entry point with petroleum jelly or a piece of tape. For a more permanent solution use silicone caulk.
- Fix leaking pipes and faucets.
- Keep food in the refrigerator or in tightly-sealed containers.



Green Holiday Tips

- Purchase LED light strings rather than incandescent lights. Incandescent lights can cost up to 90 times more to run than LED light bulbs. In fact, the holiday tree in Town Plaza uses LED lights, and you should too!
- Wrap presents in reusable materials (bags, baskets, fabric) or recycled materials (newspaper, old gift bags) to cut down on waste!
- If you celebrate Christmas, buy a potted tree, then plant it outside when Christmas is over, or buy an artificial tree you can reuse!

Resources

- * Growing Greener program: www.LosGatosCA.gov/GrowingGreener
- * West Valley Clean Water Program: www.wvcwp.org
- * Spare the Air: www.sparetheair.org
- * Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program: www.mjvwatershedwatch.org

Winter
2014-2015

